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Know-how sales to Soviets said to hurt U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. know-how sold to the Soviet Union enabled it to build weapons that cost American taxpayers billions of dollars to match, a Pentagon expert said Wednesday.

"We're trying to calculate how much, but the numbers come out so large that we've been doing it over and over—something has to be wrong," testified Stephen Bryen, who is responsible for policy on the transfer of strategic technology, before a Senate subcommittee on international finance.

In one area alone, communications switching, the cost of matching what the Soviets have done with American technology appears to amount to tens of billions of dollars, he said.

Bryen and his boss, Fred Ikle, under-secretary of defense for policy, promised to try to calculate how much the Pentagon has had to spend to match Soviet weapons improvements brought about by such technology sales.

IKLE SAID that because of poor controls on U.S. exports in the 1970s, the Soviets got advanced electronic items such as multilayered integrated circuit boards; these are important in missiles and other weapons.

"The controls were lifted to accommo-

date commercial and ill-conceived political objectives," he said.

Sen. William Armstrong (R., Colo.) said President Richard Nixon authorized the sale of precision ball-bearing grinders the Soviets had been trying to get unsuccessfully for 11 years. Shortly after this sale, he said, the Soviets began deploying new intercontinental missiles 10 times more accurate than they had before and carrying multiple warheads for the first time.

"Nobody in the West knows for sure how much the Bryant grinders may have assisted the Soviet ICBM program," he said in a statement prepared for the

hearing, "but intelligence officers have a built-in suspicion of coincidences."

He quoted "a prominent Soviet scientist" as saying jokingly that the most prolific Soviet inventor is "Comrade Reguspatoff." "Reguspatoff" is a contraction of "registered U.S. Patent Office"—a statement stamped on many American products.

Sen. Jake Garn (R., Utah) said at the hearing that he tried vainly during the Carter administration to tighten up U.S. exports to the Soviets but had not been able to accomplish anything. He said he hoped a Republican administration would do more, but it has not.